

**San José State University
Humanities Department
RELS 070 – Sec. 80
WORLD RELIGIONS, Spring 2021**

Professor:	Todd Perreira ทอดด์ เปอร์เรีรา
Office Location:	Virtual
Voice Mail:	408-924-4795
Email:	Todd.Perreira@SJSU.edu
Office Hours:	TH 10:15–11:30 AM and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TTH 1:30 – 2:45 PM
Classroom:	Virtual

Canvas – Learning Management System

Messages related to class activities and course assignments will be posted to Canvas.

Course Description

Catalog Description: Survey of major world religions, east and west, past and present. Structure and patterns of faith manifest in sacred texts, institutions, rituals, central figures, and movements.

COURSE GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

General Education Area C2 Learning Outcomes and Assessment Activities

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize how significant human accomplishments illuminate enduring concerns. This will be assessed in your semi-weekly reflections and final paper.
2. Respond to such accomplishments by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses. You will be assessed on this in your final (research-based) paper and in-class writing activities (personal responses).
3. Write clearly and effectively. You will be assessed on the effectiveness of your writing in your short essays (exams) and final paper.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOSs specific to this course)

Upon the successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize and analyze religious traditions of the world in their similarities and differences throughout history and in their present manifestations. This will be

assessed in your quizzes, exams, semi-weekly reflections on religion in current affairs.

2. Engage in comparative analysis of different traditions from the perspective of religious pluralism and cultural diversity. This will be assessed in exams and final term paper.

Required Texts

Amore, Roy C., Amir Hussain, and Willard G. Oxtoby, eds. 2020. A Concise Introduction to World Religions, 4th Edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional supplemental readings will be posted on Canvas as needed.

Order Required Text: <https://sjsu.bncollege.com/shop/sjsu/page/find-textbooks>

Note: The publisher provides online student resources including study guides and practice self-quizzes. You can access these study tools at:

https://learninglink.oup.com/access/amore4e-student-resources#all_resources

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, Humanities Librarian, King Library <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/humanities>

Email contact: silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

EXAMS. The midterm and final exams will be of equal value and will follow each half of the course. Essay questions often stress material presented during class meetings.

QUIZZES AND IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES. On occasion, you will be invited to participate in an in-class exercise. These are live, peer-collaborative activities to help improve your understanding and comprehension of that day's lecture and reading material. There are no make-ups for missed live in-class exercises. These are incorporated into your final grade as "**Class Participation.**"

SUMMATIVE MODULE ASSIGNMENTS. The course consists of seven units or modules and for each of these there will be opportunities for reflection. These will consist of either brief written reflections (1-2 paragraphs), an Adobe Spark Page, or a short Canvas Studio video.

TERM PAPER. The Term Paper will be in two sections. Section I shall consist of a brief analysis and comparison of two religious traditions of your choosing in their similarities and differences historically in a specific geographic region or culture. Section II consists of comparing representatives for each of the two traditions in their modern or current context. To advance a thesis you will combine these two sections into a single final term paper totaling 1,250 words in compositional length. The sections should be of equal length. Each section is worth up to 100 points for a total of 200 points possible.

DEDICATED STUDY TIME. SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

Participate in all in-class activities and take the quizzes or your grade will suffer as **there are no make-ups**. It is expected that when you log onto class you will give the instructor, your peers, and the material your undivided attention. Since this class is on Zoom, you are invited to keep your webcam on so that you can be seen, particularly during group and class discussions. Your mic should be muted until you need to speak. Ensure that the background visible from your webcam is suitable for a university classroom setting. Please strive to ensure that distractions in your environment are kept to a minimum. If you need to take a break, leave the webcam on and mute the mic. Text the instructor via chat that you are leaving and when you will return. Do not engage in any behavior that will detract from a positive learning environment for other students. To develop a collegial and respectful learning environment, students may address the instructor as “Prof. Perreira” or simply as “professor.”

Grading Information

Grades will be based on performance on each of the five items identified in the chart below. *More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:*

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Determination of Grades

	Up to
Class Participation (in-class activities) & Module Assignments	100 POINTS
Midterm Exam	100 POINTS
Final Exam	100 POINTS
Term Paper (Section I)	100 POINTS
Term Paper (Section II)	100 POINTS
COURSE GRADE	500 POINTS

Letter grades will be assigned in line with these percentages:

A 94-100, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69, D 64-66, D- 60-63, F 0-59.

In-Class Assignments

Throughout the semester you will be invited to participate in various in-class activities and module assignments. Some of these will be peer-collaborative activities conducted in-class while the module assignments will be completed outside of class. Both aim to help improve your understanding and comprehension of the lecture and reading material.

There are no make-ups for missed in-class exercises or past-due module assignments.

These are incorporated into your final grade as “class participation.”

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodation, etc. You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

CLASS SCHEDULE: Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings

Students should complete each reading assignment *prior* to the class meeting date and participate in all sessions. This schedule is subject to change at instructor’s discretion.

(WR) = A Concise Introduction to World Religions

Week	Date	Lecture Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	JAN 28	Introduction to the course and to studying religions REVIEW: Canvas Home Page, Course Syllabus, first assignment.
2	FEB 2-4	Studying Religions continued READ: WR 3-24 Indigenous Traditions READ: WR 27-42
3	FEB 9-11	Indigenous Traditions continued READ: WR 43-70
4	FEB 16-18	Religions of Antiquity READ: WR 77-98 (Mon); 98-122 (Wed)
5	FEB 23-25	Religions of Antiquity continued Jewish Traditions READ: WR 127-148
6	MAR 2-4	Jewish Traditions continued READ: WR 148-177
7	MAR 9-11	Christian Traditions READ: WR 183-214
8	MAR 16-18	Christian Traditions continued READ: WR 214-236 Muslim Traditions READ: WR 245-266
9	MAR 23-25	Muslim Traditions READ: WR 266-297 REVIEW: MIDTERM I (Wed)
10	MAR 29-APR 2	SPRING BREAK
11	APR 6-8	MIDTERM EXAM (Mon) Hindu Traditions READ: WR 303-325 (Wed)
12	APR 13-15	Hindu Traditions continued READ: 325-358 (Wed) DISCUSS: Term Paper Guidelines
13	APR 20-22	Jaina Traditions READ: WR 401-428 Jaina and Sikh Traditions READ: WR 365-396
14	APR 27-29	Buddhist Traditions READ: WR 435-451 (Mon); 451-491(Wed)
15	MAY 4-6	Buddhist and Chinese Traditions READ: WR 497-514
16	MAY 11-13	Chinese Traditions READ: WR 514-543 DUE: Term Paper (Wed) REVIEW: FINAL EXAM (Wed)
17	MAY 20	FINAL EXAM (TH) 12:15-2:30 PM